## NEW YEAR'S DAY.

Its Observance in the Metropolis and Suburbs.

Unpropitious Weather Call Making.

THE DAY IN WASHINGTON.

Brilliant Reception at the White House.

Who Were There, What They Did and How They Looked.

Receptions of General Grant, Chief Justice Chase, Speaker Colfax and Others.

As the last stroke of Tuesday's midnight hour died away on the chilly air the chimes of old Trinity rang out a merry greeting to the new-born year, and Eighteen Hundred and Sixty-eight came cheerily tripping into this world of sin and sorrow. Albeit, there are in the lives of every one of us oases of pleasure which serve to remind us of the truth of the old adage, that "God sends no ill unaccompanied by its cure." As usual, for hours after midnight Young America manifested its joy at the advent of the stranger by firing off muskets and revolvers, whose continuous "bang, bang bang" might be heard long after the elder portion of our citizens were snugly enscended in bed. Children sank to sleep with visions of countless toys and New Year's gifts floating through their minds, and awoke early yesterday morning to be made im mensely happy by the possession of these coveted tokens of parental and friendly affection. Gayety and happiness reigned throughout countless households. Smiling faces and light hearts threw a radiance around the home circle as the "Happy New Year" greeting was passed from lip to lip in the early morning hours; now spoken by the sonorous voice of mature age, and anon lisped by prattling childhood. The more religiously inclined, especially among our Catholic and Episcopal fellow citizens, commendably began the new year by making their first visit to the churches. where appropriate religious services were held and a benediction asked on the coming twelvemonth. Of course the great feature of the day was call-making, and, although the weather was extremely unpropitious, the walking miserably nucomfortable and the chances of catching cold decidedly against all who ventured out of doors, there was a very general observance of the custom which has been handed down to us from our good old Knickerbocker ancestry. The snow which had fallen during the night was, in consequence of the rain that followed, changed into a sloppy, slushy mass. that rendered overshoes an absolute necessity to every one who made his round of calls by pedestrian means alone. Thousands, however, "darning the expense" with an emphasis borrowed from Yankeedom, clubbed together and hired carriages for the day, making their calls in company, much to the satisfaction of livery stable keepers, whose smiling rubicand faces gave evidence of the pleasure they internally experienced at this advent of the vehicular millennium. But if the outdoor scenes wore a dreary and desolate look, the change to holiday animation everywhere observable indoors gave greater zest to the pleasurable welcome extended to the callers. Bright smiles of fair ladies greeted the advent of their young friends, whose wardrobes were gotten up in most unexceptionable style; wit and repartee invariably accompanied the drinking of healths to the fair "receivers," and the pair of skates was laid away tearfully for a future and more propitious day. In fact, the clerk of the weather played a trick—a mean one, too, some said it was—upon those who had confided in his promises of the few days preceding the beginning of the new year. Cold, clear, bracing as was the atmosphere, young and old contemplated, with a screnity which no contingency was seeningly able to disturb, the prospect of a real day's amusement on the ice yesterday. Nor were the proprietors of the various ponds without their share of the general disappointment. On many of them, inclusive of both of Major Oatman's, it was the intention to make it a perfect gala day. Bands of music were engaged and other preparations entered into with this object. Skating was entirely out of the question. Had the storm been content with snowing merely the more enterprising of these proprietors might have been able to clear the surfaces of their enclosures. In fact, the ice which comes from beneath a covering of snow has a peculiar excellence, which a connoisseur in the skating art knows well how to appreciate. But the rain capped the chimax of disappointed hopes and confirmed the fait of no skating on New Year's Day. trian means alone. Thousands, however, "darnthat clear and crispy nature which is said to give an impetus to the spirit of fun and merriment. Everybody seemed to be in the best of humor not withstanding the dreariness of the day and the dampness of the atmosphere, that invariably found its way to the cuticle when the caller emerged from the pleasant parlor into the murky semi-fog by which yesterday was characterized. General regret was experienced at the absence of steigh ing, and invidious comparisons were drawn between the oppressive murkiness of this and the clear, crispy coldness of last New Year's. Had there been sleighing, the principal city thoroughfares would doubtless have presented a carnivalistic appearance, not greatly inferior in point of rich and handsome turnouts to the Neoskoi-Prospekt, the Broadway of St. Petersburg, on a gala day. Festive youths, with money golore, might have been seen at any time after ten o'clock in the morning making their rounds in carriages drawn by high-mettled steeds, whose shining harness evinced most dencies and moved in the topmost circle of society. Anon might have been espied, trudging along by the side of such nicely decorated establishments the humble artisan, the young clerk, whose highest ambition is to see his name in gift letters over a family grocery store, or the apprentice boy, whose boss had generously donated him a whole dollar for this special occasion, and who looked forward to the enjoyments of the day among his companions with an anticipatory pleasure equalled only by that he realized when sitting by the side of his own Mary Ann, last night, in the dress circle of the Old Bowery. "Every class and condition of men," to use a phrase borrowed from the Book of Common Prayer, observed the custom of the day, and all appeared to be fully contented with themselves and "the rest of mankind. It was long after midnight when final calls were made, and those who, determining to keep sober throughout, forgot that wine will the best resolution destroy," awoke to-day with profound regrets that they did not fol-

A Snow Storm and a Rain Shower-Deten-

low the advice of the old song, "Think of your head

tion of the Curs and Ferries.
The new year was ushered in on Tuesday night. secording to the good old-fashioned custom which is said to have universally prevailed in the happy bygone days of Peter Stuyvesant and his conter porary Knickerbockers, with a snow storm, which if not so heavy as the last with which we were favored, was at least sufficient to cover the earth with a white mantle several inches in depth. The weather prophets had been predicting the coming of the storm for several days, and probably but for the extremely cold snap of Tuesday the low, leaden-hued clouds which obscured the sky would have unburdened themselves of their contents at an earlier and less opportune hour. As it was, however, just in the most appropriate nicke of time, just as everybody had swept away, by a few hours of relaxation, sad memories of a year of toil and had reached that stage of exhibaration which is generally regarded as the most fitting preparation for the new year, the welcome flakes began | and few needy ones departed without a kind reto fall, and by midnight the snow was a couple of inches deep. The advent of the snow soon pro-duced its natural results. Mirthin wayfarers, just emerging from the brilliantly lighted saloons, long sine passed away. Nevertheless a few called forth, bore the stamp that the full, free love

eagerly availing themsel es of the opportunity for sport, amused themse ves by snowballing each other, and even ver dred in a few instances, taking advantage of the exceptional character of the season, to bear the majesty of the law and fling a handful of s. the majesty of the law and fling a the peace act was be slowly patrolled his beat. Geatleme who were looking forward to making innurerable calls on the morrow, and who had long ebated the important question in what conveyance they should transport themselves from one friendly stopping place to another, at once hurried forth, and, regardless of expense, hired sleighs from recklessly-extortionate livery stable keepers. Every one, in fact, seemed to be gratified at the advent of the beautiful snow, except the unfortunate car drivers, who of course looked at the matter in a very different light from the rest of the world.

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unfortunate car drivers, who of course looked at the matter in a very different light from the rest of the world.

During the night, however, an unlucky change in the temperature occurred, and about daylight it began to drizzle, quickly changing to that most unwelcome of all visitations on such an occasion, a rain shower. Wobegone and miserable indeed were the faces of intending callers at this dreadful disaster, while those who had overnight engaged sleighs at the trilling consideration of forty dollars for the day were in a state of the most excritating mental anguish, or, as one of them humorously expressed it, in a "billowy ecstacy of woe." As the day progressed, and the usual hour for commencing calls arrived, the condition of things assumed a yet more wretched and deplorable character. The snow, only half melted by the rain, had been trodden by early pedestrians into the consistency of ice cream, and as, of course, the usual law about removing the snow from the side-walks had been femporarily suspended, such callers as had determined to make their rounds on foothad to tramp through several inches of the coldest and "wettest" substance that can be imagined. The streets were in an equally miserable state, and were indeed almost impassable. The snow had been thawed too much to be available for sleighs, and, at the same time, not having been completely reduced to a liquid state, obstructed considerably the progress of carriages—the wheels dragging heavily, and the poor horses plashing wearily along through the half snow, half mud substance which formed the surface of the roads.

The cars of course were greatly obstructed by this unfortunate condition of the streets, and made their journeys at very uncertain intervals. Some of the lines, indeed, temporarily suspended running, and even on the roads which are most patronized the journey was varied by a great many amusing episodes in the shape of "getting off the track," on which occasions the gentlemen in the cars were of course required to lend their assistance

ance in setting matters right.

The ferries were also affected by the storm, and constant detentions occurred with most of the lines, both on the East and North rivers.

The Skuting Ponds.

If the cloudy sky and drizzle and sloppy streets were a damper to the spirits, if not an obstacle in some cases to the social proclivities of the hosts of callers who celebrated vesterday, how much more unwelcome were they to the hundreds, nav. thousands, of children and boys "of larger growth" who had yearned for the coming of New Year's Day as an occasion for testing their skates, new and old. We say new, because scores of our embryo fellow-citizens were the recipients of skates for their "New Year's." Christmas has its books its boxes, its bon bons; but the New Year's gift for Young America is a pair of skates par excellence.

The snow of Tuesday night first awakened serious apprehensions, and many a little heart was disappointed when the feathery flakes, falling in a blinding shower, shut the earth, with its ice ponds and all, from sight. What to them was the more boisterous joy of those who saw in the storm a chance to make their calls on runners "mid cozy buffaloes," or of those who contemplated the delirious delight of a sleigh ride, behind a fast pair, on "the road?" And so saddened faces were pressed against the window pane watching for a lull, which came at last, but only with more disaster to their prospects. The change was to rain, and the pair of skates was laid away tearfully for a

firmed the flat of no skating on New Year's Day.
Despite the unpropitious character of the Despite the unpropitious character of the amusement are not lacking whenever Jack Frost shall choose to dispense his favors. The Park ponds are several in number. The

is the main sheet of water north of the Terrace, but fine skating is afforded on the sheets of ice at Fifty-ninth street and Fifth ave-nue, and also at the extreme northeast angle. All are ready for freezing.

Macmillan's pond was opened about three weeks

since, and between the attractions of very fair ice, calcium lights and a band of music has been well Major Oatman's pond was opened about the

same time, and has been largely attended by the fair sex. Its quadrangle during the few nights of cold weather was the scene of a most delightful gathering of beautiful skaters.

Major Mitcheil's Fifth Avenue Rink has been

Major Mitchell's Fifth Avenue Rink has been kept in constant preparation, but, like its rivals, has suffered from the midness of the winter. Two carnivals have been given on its cosey little parquet of ice this season.

The Brooklyn ponds have been prepared with nusual care for the season.

The Capitoline has been crowded whenever there was skating. A good band of music has been almost constantly in attendance.

The Union and the Satellite ponds, in the Eastern District, received many visitors from the older

ern District, received many visitors from the older

cra District, received many visitors from the older portion of Brooklyn.

Major Oatman's pond has been put in order at last, and would have been ready for skaters yesterday had the weather been refrigerative.

The proprietors of the Skating Lake, corner of South Second and Monmouth streets, Jersey City, intended to wish their patrons a very happy new year on the ice yesterday. This lake has a very line surface for ice.

The Day at the City Hall.

Playlus was pleasingly mindful of the Mayor's comfort yesterday. Owing to the storm he received very few callers, and however much his bosom may have swelled with emotion at the ought of entering anew on his mayoralty duties his red right hand did not become swelled, that afflictive penalty of greatness, from shaking hands with his constituency. On account of the few callers the reception took place in his office, in stend of the Governor's Room as intended. But the City Hall was not altogether doil.

Although the Mayor had no appetizing spread and tempting beverages, and although the halls and offices of the Aldermen, Conneilmen and Supervisors were closed and a Sabbatarian stillness hovered about these localities sacred to snods and wrangles, there were abundant catables and drinkaules and stir and uss of neople discwhere. These were at the reception of the new Sheriff elect, Mr. O'Brien. the reception of the new Sheriff elect, Mr. O'Brien, in the old Tea Room of historic memory, and that of the newly elected County Clerk, Mr. Loew, in his office. Those wearied with the formal duniers of the Mayor's reception called here to rest and refresh themselves. Mr. Roome, keeper of the Clay Hall, also received cails. If any, after going through the grand rooms of these three places, had more of a load than they could easily carry. Sergeant Lefferts, with a squad of the Twenty-sixth presented police, stood ready to receive them precinct police, stood ready to receive them within the kindly embraces of their judicious pro-

At the Five Points House of Industry.

The applications for outdoor relief at this institution yesterday were unusually numerous, and every case met with a hearty and substantial response. From an early period the poor sont in their petitions, which invariably were acceded to membrance of the House of Industry. In former

rickety houses in the vicinity did not fall to avail themselves of the occasion of impressing on the passer by that the Five Points atill existed, as was evidenced from the fact that scarcely a stray pedestrian wended his weary way through the locality without receiving a shower of wet slush, which some would call snow balls, from windows, halls and vagabonds generally. In the school connected with the House of Industry there are between three and four handred children receiving education, and although no extra festivities were held there yester may the little students did not fail to make merry. Besides giving liberal outdoor relief yesterday the little students did not fail to make merry. Besides giving liberal outdoor relief yesterday the institution maintains in the establishment two hundred and twenty-five adults. The arrangements yesterday, which were under the superintendence of Mr. J. B. Halliday, gave much satisfaction to the hordes of poor persons relieved.

Although no unusual festivities were held yes-terday among the children attending this institution, and although there was not the usual crowd of applicants at the Howard Mission yesterday, the causes of their absence speak volumes for the liberality of the establishment. The poor cannot forget the entertainment they received at the Howard Mission on Thanksgiving and Christmas days, when charities were dispensed to all mas days, when charities were dispensed to all comers with a generous hand. Like water from a fountain money will run itself out, the greater the flow the sooner it will come to an end. No less than \$11 boys and girls are educated, clothed and fed at this institution, and it is estimated that no fewer sit down to dine daily than 671. Besides numerous others are relieved from temporary distress. The funds consequently must be great to withhold such necessitous demands, and their present low state alone account for a want of the customary charities on New Year's Day. The indefatigable president of the institution, Mr. Van Meter, hopes, however, that the appeals which he intends making to the liberal community will meet with the generous response which his undertaking deserves.

St. James' Catholic Industrial Schools. within. And if such were the general aspect of affairs yesterday, perhaps in no parlor of the city was it more exemplified than among the poor in St. James' parish. Under the personal superintendence of the Rev. F. Farrelly, P. P., the St. Vincent de Paul Society worked wonders. Few poor persons in the district were left without a hearty, substantial dinner, and to that fact may be attributed the exertions of the reverend pastor, who was untiring in his exertions to provide for the needy. Indeed, it is questionable whether any parish in the city surpassed that of St. James in its bounteous liberality. Besides providing for all comers, the poor children of the surrounding locality were handsomely entertained at dinner. Over two thousand boys and as many girls are educated, clothed, bedded and carefully trained under the special supervision of the Rev. Mr. Farreily, and their very appearance yesterday be spoke intelligence and contentment. Poor and ragged and forlorn, their morals are piously cultivated, and their education is attended to by competent masters. Besides these, the New Year was made welcome by a thousand others whose recollection of the charity of the congregation of St. James' church cannot easily be forgotten. The appeals of the zealous and energetic pastor had their usually beneficial result, and nothing was left undone by either priest or parishioners to spread around peace and plenty. The dinner was not confined to the children, but their poor parents likewise received their share of all the good things which were unostentatiously presented to them at their tenements by the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Apart from the poor school superintended the Rev. Mr. Farrelly, there is the parish school of St. James, containing nearly fifteen hundred boys and girls, and to these the attention of the reverend gentleman must have been particularly assiduous, as was evident from the warm token of affection they displayed towards him yesterday. At the conclusion of the mass specially for the children in St. James' church nearly twelve hundred youths presented him with a beautiful edition of the "Lives of the Popes," elegantly bound. The present was accompanied with a fervent address expressing the gratitude, esteem and respect the pupils entertained towards their pastor. The Rev. Mr. Farrelly, in a brief reply, observed that he was much pleased with the kind and appropriate present, and he trusted his labors in this cause would not go unrewarded so far as their own moral amelioration was concerned. He eulogized the parishioners of St. James' parish for their unbounded liberality during these feative though pressin all comers, the poor children of the surrounding locality were handsomely entertained at dinner. as they were needy and helpless they would cling to those who would cherish and protect them. Al-together, the festivities at St. James' parish yes-terday among the poor were of a very substantial

Beyond doubt Mr. J. W. Farmer had by far the most visitors in the city of New York yesterday. From a very early hour the news room in Ludlow street (which is generously supported by Mr Farmer himself) was densety crowded. We will not say that the tables at the extreme end of the room "groaned 'neath the weight of luxuries.' but it can honestly be asserted that they stood upright with good substantial dishes, which were apright with good substantial dishes, which were patronized in a manner that spoke volumes for their contents. Turkeys, geese, hams, roast beef and cakes were there in profusion, and were dispensed throughout the day with a liberal and philanthropic hand. The arrangements were personally superintended by Mr. Farmer, whose very manner of distribution was enough to give an appetite to the host of wanderers. The carvers in Mr. Farmer's had certainly a hard day of it: their labors were incessant and the calls of its their labors were incessant and the calls of it; their labors were incessant and the calls upon them unlimited. Not in twos, threes, dozens or twenties were the applicants served, but in hundreds. Before eleven o'clock last night not less than two thousand persons were entertained with substantial meals. And it should likewise be observed that Mr. Farmer's vicitors did not apper-tain to the very common order of persons, but numbered among the immense crowd evidently many once respectable men, who, through tempo-rary want, were delighted to find such an excellent and well provided receptacle as the hospita-ble host afforded. Verily Mr. Farmer is a truly philanthropic man and a model to all others; for not only does he expend his wealth in relieving the wants of the poor, but his lavish generosity is enhanced by the the truly Christian manner in which he distributes it. None were forbidden his welcome recentacle vesterative creed and color which he distributes it. None were formidden his welcome receptacle yesterday; creed and color were alike to him, and few left without a grateful remembrance of his hospitality, and the good deeds of Mr. Farmer generally are not forgotten.

The Day on Blackwell's Island.

The ugly storm that shut out many of the gay eties of yesterday, and caused a thousand fair faces, whose owners had for weeks dreamed of the conquests of the few hours devoted by custom in the metropolis to an interchange of kindly wishes, to be enshrouded with frowns, did not shut out the light of love and charity that gleamed with perfect beauty into the cells and homes of the poor and almost friendless in the various institutions upon Blackwell's Island. Although the season is not so joyously observed as upon Christmas, the Commissioners of Public Correction and Charities, who have charge of the hundreds that fate has placed in their custody, make it a merry making and gladsome time to them, appropriately ushering in the first day of the new year. Souls seared with evil and wrong, the members of that great outcast multitude whose name is legion, who are hungered and roofless, and whose portion is wretchedness in the world, commingled in the festryities of the time with childhood and the demented. It was a holiday in the institutions, truly. The thoughtful Commissioners had prepared a noble feast of a palatable character, and at noon the many inmates of the Lunatic Asylum, the Almshouse, Charity Hospital, the Ponitentiary and Workhouse were severally past, but it embraced the good and substant.
Faces upon which shadows of startled fear a
disquietude have long rested, and for the posses
of which the deepest symmathy neked to partake of it. It was not an epicurean re

that actuated the kind tenderness of the commissioners had touched the core and soul of their lives. They felt that there are still those who care for them among the great multitude that coat represents and hurl condemnation at them. The meal of poultry and accompanying concomitants was apparently heartily relished. Each was satisfied, and the words of love, caution and advice that were spoken by the wardens after dinner almost forced from callous hearts, where the profanities of life have long rested, tears, as the tremulous lips and still more tremulous hands unconsciously attested. In the Lunatic Asylum the hours of the evening were pleasantly passed by a magic lantern exhibition to the inmates. Its mysteries and beauties produced a most pleasing effect upon the strange audience, and the exclamations of delight, that were abundant, was compensation sufficient for the little trouble it had caused. Music also contributed to please the immates of the respective institutions, and thus, in feasting and listening to kind words and sweet strains that called up visions of faded fancies to many hearts, the first day of the year was passed upon Blackwell's island—a day that will live long in the memories of those that participated in the seasonable feast and were the recipients of that great kindness there manifested.

The Theatres Yesterday. BROADWAY .- Mrs. Bowers appeared matinée and evening in her best character, Mary Stuart, at this establishment.

NBLO's .- "The Black Crook" received numerous calls in the evening, and displayed his attractive ballet as usual.

WALLACK'S .- Oliver Twist, Bill, and Nancy Sykes and Fagin had their own little circle of admirers at Wallack's last night.

New York .- The merry, bright-eyed Worrell Sisters placed their establishment "Under the Gaslight" last night and at the matinée. BANVARD's .- "The Willow Copse," Albaugh as Luke Fielding and Miss Mary Mitchell

as Rose, was given at this house yesterday. OLYMPIC .- "Midsummer Night's Dream" exhibited all its scenic splendors and grotesque characters at this theatre last night.

Bowery .- Manager Freligh gave two perform ances yesterday, at which the "River Pirates,"
"No Thoroughfare," "Raby Rattler," "Jolly Cob-blers," "Slasher and Crasher," &c., were presented. FIFTH AVENUE .- "Queen Bess" received calls

matinée and evening, for the last time, at this handsome little burlesque theatre. THEATRE COMIQUE.—Two grand variety performances were given by Messrs. White, Cotton and Sharpley. The Hanlons will appear on Monday. BUTLER'S AMERICAN THEATRE.-Matinée and evening performances, with the usual monster bills, were given at this establishment.

bills, were given at this establishment.

New York Circus.—The grand comic pantomime,

"The Miser of Bagdad," with all its eccentric attractions, was presented matinée and evening.

Tony Pastor's.—"There was an Old Wo man that Lived in a Shoe," although some may be inclined to doubt it. Tony Pastor proved it yesterday in his pantomime of that name.

KELLY AND LEON'S MINSTRELS .- Santa Claus

distributed his presents at this house, both ma-tinée and evening, in a choice performance. SAN FRANCISCO MINSTREES.—Billy Birch and Charley Backus, the head centres of minstrelsy, appeared last night at this house in a "screaming bill."

HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS.—This establishment was "Under the Lamplight" in the afternoon and evening. This is a capital burlesque.

BUNYAN HALL.—The Pilgrim, with its paintings, music and gorgeous transformations, was unfolded to the audience at the Church of the Puritars vesterday.

The Day in Brooklyn

The anything but auspicious inaugural of the new year-meteorologically speaking—though well calculated to cast a damper upon the prospective enjoyments of the time-honored customs of the 1st of January, did not extend its material influence in this latter connection, and the sturdy lords of creation plodded their way the live long day from residence to residence, wherever particular friend was to be seen, as though the difficulties of walking were as naught, and the barriers set in their route of march by the clerk of the weather were easily overcome. Indeed, from the hour of ten easily overcome. Indeed, from the hour of ten in the morning—at which time the prospect was anything but inviting out doors—young and old were to be seen braving the elements, with umbrellas, at times inverted by old Boreas as he swept around the corners, and with heavy snow boots, lappel of overcoat turned up close about the ears, and other sensible precautions taken under the circumstances, as they proceeded to fulfil their customary calls. As the day advanced the thoroughly saturated snow became morb densely packed under foot as travel grew greater, door bells were agitated with more frequency, and fair hostesses, who had almost begun to despair of receiving the visitors for whom they had made so much preparation and whose coming was so anxiously awaited, grew cheerful and to despair of receiving the visitors for whom they had made so much preparation and whose coming was so anxiously awaited, grew cheerful and smilingly welcomed "Mr. So-and-so and Mr. So-and-so," as the gallant youths, with neat though often ruffled garb, bowed smirkingly, repeating for the hundredth time the stereotype expressions peculiar to the occasion. Still it is fair to presume that many were disappointed in not receiving a visit from those whom they expected, and the cause thereof may safely be attributed to the "inclemency of the weather." The tables set were as profuse in the good things of this life as on former years, spirituous liquors, wines of every brand, and all the delicacies of the season appeared in abundance, notwithstanding the caution given by Parson Beecher to ladies against offering intoxicating drinks to gentlemen. There was but little drunkenness, however, visible in the streets, and but few arrests are reported at the station houses.

Mayor Kalbfleisch (who entered upon the discharge of the functions of office as chief magistrate of the city yesterday), in company with exact of the city yesterday), in company with exact of the city yesterday), in company with exact of the city yesterday, in company with exact of the city to such as chose to call on them in the Governor's room, City Hall. The reception of these dignitaries was commenced at ten o'clock, and continued until noon. A large concourse of citizens availed themselves of the pleasure of greeting the incoming and outgoing officials. John Cunningham, Chief Engineer, also held levée at his office in the City Hall basement, and was not overlooked by the fire boys, who paid close attention to a fine spread provided for them. The Sheriff also received calls at the jail. Services were held in the Catholic churches and in the Methodist Episcopal. The clergymen in the former churches animadverted in severe language on the folly and extravagance of the custom of the day, and urged all good Christians to desist from the cvil which it enge

day, and urged all good Christians to desist from the evil which it engenders, and give the means thus squandered uselessly upon tables te the poor, of which class there are many at the present time in want of the common necessaries of life.

A dull day was the opening of IS68 in Jersey City. From the quiet observable through the streets it would seem that "calling" has fallen ato disuse, but the unpleasant weather accounts for the almost deserted streets yesterday. Ten arrests were made for drunkenness. John McRowe was arrested for stealing \$90 from William Bennett and was locked up for examination.
David Cowan was also locked up for threatening
the life of a woman of the same name, the prisoner being a mere boy.

The celebration at Newark was greatly marred

oner being a mere boy.

The celebration at Newark was greatly marred by the rain and slush. Comparatively few calls were made upon private individuals. Governor Ward. Congressman Halsey and Mayor Peddie received calls at the City Hall, corner of Broad and William streets. Over two thousand people paid their respects to those officials. The crowd passed through the front entrance of the building into the reception room and from thence to the room of the City Court, on the left of the hallway, where a collation was prepared. Thence the visitors presed out of the rear door of the building to William street. Policemen were in attendance to preserve order, but their services were not needed. The reception continued from ten A. M. to one P. M. This was the principal observation of the day. Watch meetings were held in the Methodist and several of the Baptist charches, commencing at ten o'clock on Tuesday night and continuing until the early hours of the new year. But few pedestrians were on the streets compared with the number on Christmas' Day, and little enjoyment was had out of doors. The places of public amusement were but poorly patronized in the evening. As a holiday yesterday was little enjoyed at Newark.

The time-honored custom of making New Year's calls as usual formed a marked feature in the manner of celebrating the day throughout West chester county. From an early hour in the forenoon groups of the sterner sex, in numbers varied might be seen passing along the principal thor

oughfares clad in heliday attire, making numerous oughfares clad in heliday attire, making numerous seppages along the route in places where something stronger than water was dispensed in "thimblafula"—or more. It was a noticeable fact that on leaving those places the utmost mystification prevailed as to the proper direction, as set down in the programme, which the party should take. Under the circumstances, therefore, it is not to be wondered at that many ludicrous mistakes were made during the day. Among them was one in which a party of Morrisanians, residing on Washington avenue, who started for Fordham in the early part of the day, and instead of arriving there found themselves, four or five hours afterward, near the City Hall, New York, in a Third avenue railroad car. Owing to the disagreeable terward, near the City Hall, New York, in a Third avenue railroad car. Owing to the disagreeable character of the weather the churches, as a rule, were attended rather slimly, and to this cause may also be ascribed the general quietness which prevailed. In all the slush and mud a party of stevedores, in red shirts, from the city, turned out on a target excursion.

## THE NEW YEAR IN WASHINGTON.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE HERALD. Brilliant Reception at the White House-Re-

ceptions of General Grant, Chief Justice Chase, Speaker Colfax, Old Thad and the Washington Celebrities Generally. WASHINGTON, Jan. 1, 1868.

The President's reception was the great event in Washington to-day, and, despite the raw and chilly weather, was well attended by citizens of all classes. The police arrangements were excellent, and no undue crowding resulted from the exhaustless stream of visitors that poured for hours through Blue Room and Red Room and circulated in eddying groups in the ample space of the East To facilitate the egress of visitors a wooden bridge was thrown across the cellar area of the White House from one of the windows which opened on a level with the floor of the East Room, and all confusion in getting out was thus avoided. Carriages drove up under the pillared por-tico from the west side and left by the east. At eleven o'clock the President entered the circular Blue Room, the handsomest apartment in the Executive Mansion, with its beautiful frescoed walls and ceilings, and its flood of mellow light. The Marine Band, numbering about forty pieces, struck up a lively air. The ladies began to make their appearance. The foreign ministers, in gold lace and antique swallow tails, came bustling along, and the scene began to assume an animated

Mrs. Patterson and Mrs. Stover, the President's

daughters, came in at the same time and took up a position in the centre of the room. Both were dressed alike in lustreless black, silk beaded and braided and finished off at the necks with fine white lace collars. They went through the ceremony of receiving with a quiet, cheerful, unaffected grace that made its due impression. Their children, about six or seven in number, some of them very interesting little girls, entered the room with them and remained during the reception, moving gleefully through the crowd. The President, wearing his peculiar smile of affability, dressed in plain black, and gloved with drab kids, took up a position near the western entrance of the room with Marshal Gooding on his left to perform the introductions. He looked well, showed no trace of care on his brow, while his hair was faultlessly brushed and adjusted. He was cordial in his man ner and evinced a very kindly tendency to kiss all the little innocent girls that were introduced to him by their fond parents. No anxious apprehensions were visible in his countenance of the terrible ordeal in store for the muscles of his right hand. He rather looked resigned to his fate and prepared to meet it manfully. At eleven o'clock precisely the proceedings began by the entrance of the Cabinet ministers, headed by Secretary Seward leading his daughter-in-law. Seward was in good spirits, evidently ready for a joke, though he perpetrated none, except to say, in one of his brief and promiscuous conversations, that he hoped no earthquake would visit Alaska before it was paid for. The somnolent Secretary of the Navy appeared wide awake and quite complacent. Secretary McCulloch looked oblivious of figures and finance, and Stanbery wore an expression of relief from the legal cares of his office. Browning and Randall made up the rest of the Cabinet representation. Their ladies were also in attendance, dressed in rich but subdued attire. The volume of conversation increased in came together. French, German and Italian

varied. Secretary Seward introduced the foreign minis ters, beginning, with Mons. Berthemy, the French Minister, who wore the cross of the Legion and a tri-colored sash; Baron Gerolt, of Prussia, with heavy gold embroidered pocket lap pets and a coat collar, made an imposing appearance, but the most remarkable looking foreign representative was undoubtedly Blacque Bey the Turkish Minister, with his crimson fez. gold mounted scimeter and gorgeous oriental apparel. Of a naturally fine figure, his costume showed to advantage and drew after him a good deal of attention. His secretary, a magnificent looking Turk, with a magnificent mustache and a lustrous coal black eye, accompa nied him, Baron Stoeckl, Russian Minister, Le Baron de Frankenstein, Austrian Charge d'Affairs, Baron N. W. de Wetterstedt, of Sweden, and Señor Don Colonel Domingo F. Sarmiento Argentine Republic, followed, giving to the room, which was fast filling up, quite a gay appearance. In succession came Francis Clark Ford, Charge d'Affairs of Great Britain, Señor Don Alberto Gava, of the Chilean Legation, M. de Bille, recently appointed Danish Minister, Chevalier Marcee Cerrutti, Minister from Italy. Señor Don Luia de Potestat, of the Spanish Legation; M. Waldemar de Bodisco, of the Russian Legation; M. Waldemar de Bodisco, of the Russian Legation; John Hitz, Esq., Consul General of Switzerland; Don José Antonio Carcia y Garcia. Peruvian Minister, besides a number of attachés, duly presented by the indefatigable Secretary of State. All these gentlemen formed in radiant clusters in the centre of the room, in the vicinity of the President's daughter.

Three beautiful bouquets of exotic flowers graced the mantel piece, and when conversation on the weather flagged these freshly culled gems of the conservatory formed an unfailing theme of criticism.

Several of the foreign gentlemen were very Don Alberto Gava, of the Chilean Lega-

broke in at intervals upon the accustomed English

and the confusion of tongues became delightfull

Several of the foreign gentlemen wore very light pants, with silver braid at the sides, and a majority rejoiced in medals, crosses and bits of ribbon. In exterior personnel majority rejoiced in medals, crosses and bits of ribbon. In exterior personnel there was nothing very striking in these representatives from abroad. Some were very unimpressive looking individuals, and wore their uniforms with an awkward grace. When the ministers had all been introduced, the members of Congress came dropping in. Reverdy Johnson, corpulent and ruddy as ever, led the van, then came Dixon and Doolittle, the twin conservatives; Morton of Indiana, with the old fire in his eyes, though feeble in his limbs, advanced to the President and extended an honest greeting to him on the advent of the New Year. Cole of California, 'Fessenden of Maine, Morrill of Vermont, rigged out quite stylishly; Corbet of Oregon, Sherman out quite stylishly; Corbet of Oregon, Sherman and Morgan followed and in every instance were kindly recognized by the President. After the Senators came Representatives El-dridge Marshall, Pruyn, Banks, Nicholson, Ferris

and Trimble, and very soon a bright galaxy of dis-tinguished folks was assembled within the limited area of the Blue Room. Next came General Grant, at the head of the army officers and in full uniform; he advanced to the President in a business like way, shook his hand and wished him a happy New way, shook his hand and wished him a happy New Year. The President smillingly responded, and observed that the General looked well. The latter proceeded to introduce his staff, not the least remarkable of whom, Eli Parker, the Indian colonel of matrimonial fame, with a stolid military besting, attracted a share of attention. General Sherman followed Grant and paid his respects like a soldier returning afterwards to introduce his beautiful fair haired daughter. The room at this time was quite full, and the buzz of conversation became lively and incessant.

Seward circulated around among the diplematic

groups, and seemed to be ubiquitous, now talking ingenious nonsense to a Russian baron and the next moment tite-a-title with some languishing beauties from abroad.

Some of the ladies wore excessively long trains and to watch Seward skipping numbly out of the way was quite an interesting study of veter agility.

way was quite an interesting study of veter agility.

Generals Howard, Hardie, Balloch, Shir. Eaton, Ekin, Dent, Rickefts and other office were presented in turn, and then came the grees dogs Admirals Radford, Smith and Bailey; Comodores Jenkins and Sands, and Commande Breese, Queen and Davis. The marine office were next in turn, in full uniform, and carry immense epaulettes. Chief Justice Chase releasented the judiciary. A promiscuous creame close on the heels of the lawy. Montgomery Blair, Mayor Wallach, F. Spinner and others, and then followed veteran survivors of the war of 1812 and the Acciation of the Oldest Inhabitants of Washing. The latter body is a congregation of white-head old fellows, who take a pride in living over the score and ten, the maximum measure of hum existence.

At length the hour of twelve arrived, and

The latter body is a congregation of white-hear old fellows, who take a pride in living over threscore and ten, the maximum measure of hum existence.

At length the hour of twelve arrived, and the doors were thrown open to admit the great nawashed, who came with a rush and a delightful irregularity of line. The President's work had been hitherto comparatively light, for the hand-shaking process was gentle; but now that the democracy were loose upon him, it became serious business, very much resembling a vigorous turn at a pump handle. The descendants of Ham had no representation in the crowds. There was one young darkey, however, who ventured in near the close of the reception, and stealing up timidly towards the President made a dive at his hand, succeeded in shaking it and ran off elated. A little after two c'clock the reception ended. The Marine band played a parting air and the few remaining visitors hastened off to pay their respects elsewhere. From the Executive mansion the throng of visitors distributed themselves in the directions of the residences of the various Cabinet ministers.

ORNERAL GRANT'S RECEPTION.

In point of numbers the reception of General Grant equalled that of the President himself. From the hour of twelve until three P. M. the capacious dwelling of the General was besieged by a continuous stream of vehicles and pedestrians. Among the crowd were an unusually large number of ladies, anxious to pay their tribute of respect to the distinguished general of the late war. Upon entering the dwelling the visitors were received by the usher, and announced in a loud voice as they entered the magnificently furnished parlors.

The General occupied a position about the centre of the room, and was dressed in full uniform. In his rear stood a table, upon which were a number of small silk American flags and numerous tokens of the appreciation of the American people. On his left stood Mrs. Grant Wrs. General Dent and Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Grant wore a purple satin dress with a trail. The General and his lady

mirals and officers of all the subordinate ranks were present. Foreign legations were very largely represented. Senators, representatives, judges and the public generally, to be counted by thousands, made up the civil list.

THE CABINET RECEPTIONS.

The receptions of Secretaries Seward, McCulloch, Welles, Browning and Randall were largely attended, the majority of the visitors being those interested in the Departments respectively presided over by these gentlemen.

RECEPTIONS OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

RECEPTIONS OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND MEMBERS
OF CONGRESS.

The residence of Chief Justice Chase was the centre of attraction of a numerous throng of the legal profession and a host of friends. At an early hour the crowd commenced pouring in and were received with the usual dignity of the Chief Justice, whose rigid manner was relieved by the grace and elegance of his daughters, Mrs. Byrague and Miss Nettle Chase.

Although not having made any formal announcement of receiving visitors, Thad Stevens entertained for a short time a small circle of his radical friends, who were anxious to inaugurate the new year with a few words of congratulation and hopes of a prosperous issue out of the great triat their principles are soon to be subjected to. Senators Reverdy Johnson, Grimes, Harian and Morgan, Admral Radford, General Butler also had receptions. The day at the residence of Speaker Colfax was brilliant, and the crowd, though large, was no more of a political character than elsewhere. Persons of all shades of opinions came and went, having partaken of the hospitable greeting of the Speaker and the ladies of his family.

FIRE IN CATHARINE STREET,-Between one and two o'clock on Tuesday night a fire broke out in the cellar of building Nos. 20 and 20 ½ Catharine street. The cellar is used in common by the occupants of the store and also the tenants up stairs. The flames extended up were extinguished by the firemen. No. 20, on the first floor, is occupied by Simon Grum, dealer in pediaris goods, the rear room being occupied as a dwelling; his stock is damaged by waier to the extent of \$1,500; insured ferses, 500 in the Knickerbocker, Baltic and New York Insurance companies. No. 20% is occupied by Berman & Olenick, dealers in pediaris goods; damage to stock about \$3,000; insured for \$8,000—\$2,000 in each in the Etna, Brooklyn, St. Nicholas and Atlantic Insurance companies. The building is owned by Mr. Foster; it is damaged about \$400, and is insured.

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